United Nations S/PV.6365

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6365th meeting

Tuesday, 27 July 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Kafeero
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2010/382)

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10-46528 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2010/382)

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Gambari to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to the report of the Secretary General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, contained in document S/2010/382.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Gambari: Before starting my formal statement to the Council, I am most happy to be able to report the safe release earlier today of the two German international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff members who were kidnapped on 22 June in Nyala. They were picked up by an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) helicopter in Kabkabiya at 11.30 Sudan time. Unfortunately, one staff member of the international NGO Samaritan's Purse kidnapped south of Nyala on 18 May remains in captivity. It is my hope that ongoing efforts to secure that individual's safe release will soon bear fruit.

I am honoured to be present here again today to brief the Council on the progress and challenges in UNAMID mandate implementation and in the achievement of the benchmarks presented to the Council in the Secretary-General's report of 16 November 2009 (S/2009/592). I would like to recall in this regard that the UNAMID strategic work plan defined benchmarks for the following four priority areas: a comprehensive political solution; a secure and stable environment; enhanced rule of law, governance and human rights; and a stabilized humanitarian situation.

In regard to the search for a comprehensive political solution, it is gratifying to note that this meeting is taking place immediately following the conclusion of two key meetings of international stakeholders engaged on the Sudan, including Darfur. The first was the first meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum, which includes the E-6 — the special envoys of the five permanent members of the Security Council plus the European Union — all of Sudan's neighbours, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, held in Khartoum on 17 July 2010. The second relevant meeting is the just-concluded 237th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held in Kampala, Uganda, in the margins of the ongoing African Union summit. Both meetings reiterated the need to ensure effective coordination of international engagement on the Sudan in a holistic manner, which I believe remains the objective of the Security Council.

As we speak here today, negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement are making steady progress in Doha under the facilitation of the AU-United Nations Mediator and the Government of Qatar. Furthermore, on 12 July, the second civil society forum was launched in Doha, attended by approximately 320 representatives of civil society organizations, internally displaced persons (IDPs), native administration and experts from all three Darfurian states. This has provided an important boost to the peace process. Although significant progress has been made, the continued absence of two of the major armed movements — the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Abdul Wahid — is deeply unfortunate. Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé is in contact with the leadership of both movements to urge them to join the

process and to discuss possible modalities for their participation.

In accordance with its mandate and in line with the requests contained in the communiqués adopted at the first meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum on 17 July, as well as by the AU Peace and Security Council on 21 July, UNAMID has continued to support the efforts of Joint Chief Mediator Bassolé, including in the ongoing negotiations in Doha. Furthermore, UNAMID is currently finalizing its preparations for a process of internal political dialogue in Darfur to support and complement the Doha peace negotiations.

To this end, UNAMID will be engaging in a proactive manner with IDPs, refugees and the broader civil society, as well as with the newly elected legislators in the three States of the region, some 86 Darfurian members of the National Assembly in Khartoum, and Darfurians who have been appointed as ministers by President Al-Bashir, including those holding the key Ministries of Finance and Justice. The purpose of the dialogue will be to focus in detail on issues that affect a wide cross-section of Darfurians, and in particular on those issues that are the root causes of the Darfur conflict, including political and economic marginalization, land, justice and reconciliation. In this way, the dialogue will both inform and ensure that Darfurians buy in on the final elements of the peace agreements to be signed between the Government and armed movements.

In a similar positive development, UNAMID is nearing full deployment, with 88 per cent of military personnel, 70 per cent of police, including 13 out of 19 formed police units, and 75 per cent of civilian personnel in theatre. I would also like to highlight progress in the issuance of visas for UNAMID staff over the past couple of months. Notably, I would like to mention the arrival in the Mission of the new Force Chief of Staff, whose visa was granted by the Government recently after an unfortunate long delay. While this is encouraging, it is important for the Government of the Sudan to sustain this progress so that the rapid processing of visas for all nationalities is the norm rather than the exception.

Over time, the deployment of UNAMID has allowed the Mission to shift its focus towards harnessing its assets in pursuit of an effective implementation of its mandate and an early achievement of the benchmarks identified in November 2009. With a view to contributing to a stable and secure environment throughout Darfur, UNAMID has been able to expand its patrols both in number and range throughout the three Darfurian states, currently conducting on average more than 100 patrols per day, and to intensify its efforts in community policing. Furthermore, UNAMID's substantive sections have been providing support in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, local reconciliation and others through capacity-building, facilitation and advocacy with local institutions, political office holders, newly elected officials, native administration, civil society, community representatives and other stakeholders in Darfur so as to advance in the priority area of rule of law, governance and human rights in accordance with UNAMID's strategic work plan. However, challenges remain on the path to lasting peace and stabilization in Darfur.

When I last addressed the Council on 14 June (see S/PV.6338), I drew attention to the dire security situation in Darfur and the serious operational challenges facing UNAMID. It is with greater concern that I must report again today that, despite considerable efforts on the part of UNAMID, the security situation in Darfur has not greatly improved. Fighting between Government forces and the Justice and Equality Movement continues to be a major source of insecurity in several parts of Darfur. Government forces have been able to dislodge JEM from its traditional stronghold in Jebel Moon, Western Darfur, and the Adula mountains in Southern Darfur, and to disrupt its main supply routes to El Fasher and Nyala. Of late, JEM convoys have been sighted even in Northern Darfur moving northwards, possibly towards the Libyan border.

The resumption of fighting was accompanied by JEM withdrawal from the peace talks in Doha. The movement is yet to re-engage in the talks, despite efforts to bring it back into the negotiating process. In an apparent attempt to take advantage of the Government's military engagement with JEM, the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army attacked Sudanese Armed Forces positions in the Jebel Marra area around 29 May. This has led to sporadic fighting between the two parties, civilian casualties and the displacement of several communities.

In addition to these very troubling incidences of military confrontation, intense intercommunal fighting has been occurring between the Misseriya and Nawaiba

communities — both semi-nomadic Arab tribes — which have been fighting over fertile land along the border of Southern and Western Darfur. This fighting resulted in an estimated 126 casualties in May and 133 in June, compared to a total of 134 fatalities attributable to tribal clashes throughout the whole of 2009. On 29 June, a peace agreement was reached between the two tribes, according to which the parties agreed to disarm their militia, pay compensation to the families of the victims, and establish a joint security task force to restore law and order. As I address the Council today, it is fortunate that this agreement is largely holding, and fighting between the groups has largely ceased.

It is with grave concern that I have to report a spike in criminal acts and attacks against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report before the Council (S/2010/382), during the previous year UNAMID peacekeepers were attacked on 28 occasions, resulting in 10 dead and 26 injured. We have also seen two instances of kidnapping of UNAMID personnel and six cases involving humanitarian colleagues. In the most recent event, on 21 June armed men, apparently in military fatigues, attacked UNAMID troops guarding a construction site in Nertiti, Western Darfur. In the exchange of fire, three UNAMID military personnel from Rwanda and three attackers lost their lives. I would like to take this opportunity to underscore once again that such attacks against peacekeepers constitute war crimes, and we call on the Government of the Sudan to arrest, try and bring the perpetrators to justice.

As we speak here today, my colleagues in Darfur are working to urgently solve yet another incident involving UNAMID-related staff. Yesterday, 26 July, a UNAMID helicopter went missing while transporting members of the Security Arrangements Committee of the Liberation and Justice Movement to locations in Southern Darfur. Fortunately, earlier today we were able to establish contact with three of the four crew members of the helicopter, as well as one international staff member, who are reported to be in safety at a location controlled by the Government of the Sudan south of Menawashi. However, the captain of the helicopter remains unaccounted for. UNAMID is working with the Government and the movements in the area to try to locate the missing pilot.

In response to the attacks on UNAMID uniformed personnel, I have met with high-level Government officials, including the Vice-President, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and the new State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, to reiterate earlier demands that the Government conduct thorough and timely investigations into the attacks and prosecute those involved. Following my meetings, on 26 July UNAMID received a note verbale from the Government of the Sudan in which it condemned the attacks on UNAMID troops, informed the Mission that it would establish an emergency reaction force, and enhance cooperation and exchange of information with UNAMID to mitigate remaining security risks. While this represents a welcome move by the Government on this matter, the support of Member States, including this Council, is kindly sought to impress upon the Government the need to urgently address the continued impunity of such attacks.

It is also in this context that, on 5 July, I convened a retreat of the Special Envoys to the Sudan in an attempt to enhance the shared understanding of the achievements and challenges at hand. I was very much encouraged by the high participation, as a total of 19 delegations came to El Fasher, including my colleagues Joint Chief Mediator Bassolé and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios, to review the general situation on the ground and discuss the security situation in Darfur, the peace talks in Doha and facilitation of early recovery. The meeting expressed full support for the work of the Joint Chief Mediator and UNAMID and underscored the need for full humanitarian access and freedom of movement.

The participants also observed the link between security and sustainable voluntary returns, and highlighted the need to achieve lasting peace through a comprehensive negotiated settlement. This was also endorsed in the respective communiqués of the Sudan Consultative Forum of 17 July and the meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council in Kampala on 21 July.

Regrettably, progress achieved over the past year towards a stabilized humanitarian situation has been slowed in recent weeks as access to the affected population in areas of recent fighting — in particular to large areas of eastern Jebel Marra and in Southern Darfur — has remained problematic. I am particularly concerned at the situation in eastern Jebel Marra, where, following the onset of the fighting between the

Government of the Sudan and SLA-Abdul Wahid in February, all NGOs operating in the area closed down their activities and relocated their international staff. Consequently, the provision of humanitarian assistance has ceased, creating gaps in the delivery of vital services and livelihoods. I therefore reiterate my call on all parties to respect UNAMID's mandate and to allow UNAMID and the humanitarian community full access to the affected population.

UNAMID continues to engage in negotiations with Sudanese Government authorities at all levels and with the armed movements to ensure wider access, including for humanitarian assessment missions to deep field locations. Recognizing the apparent disconnect in the transmission of directives on access and communication between Khartoum and Sudanese Government officials on the ground, we have also encouraged the Government to improve information flow throughout the chain of command.

Similarly, during the recent meeting of the High-level Committee on humanitarian issues on 19 July in Khartoum — comprising the Government, the United Nations country team, donors, NGOs and UNAMID — its participants decided to establish a subcommittee on safety and security, which is to meet on a weekly basis to address the enhanced security of the humanitarian community and restrictions of movement.

In this context, I also wish to report that UNAMID continues to engage with the Government at all levels to develop a shared understanding of the conditions for the unrestricted use of UNAMID's tactical helicopters in full support of its core mandate activities. As outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, those assets are yet to become fully operational, beyond training and crew activities, as a result of Government restrictions. Accordingly, practical results on the ground since the acquisition of those assets have not yet been registered. It is my firm belief that, in order to maximize the added value of the Mission for Darfur, and for the Sudan in general, it is essential that the Sudanese authorities show increased commitment in practical terms to providing an enabling environment for UNAMID. I ask the Council for its support in this regard.

Economic marginalization and competition over scarce resources are among the major root causes of the Darfur conflict. The United Nations country team and UNAMID have an important role to play in assisting the Government and local authorities to take advantage of existing pockets of peace, where these exist, to stimulate livelihood opportunities. To this end, UNAMID will continue in its efforts to provide a secure environment conducive to voluntary and sustainable returns and to support the United Nations country team's efforts through the use of our assets within our capacities. However, our efforts cannot supplant the primary responsibility of the Government for recovery and development. Indeed, the Government could go a long way towards addressing the root causes of the conflict in Darfur if it committed firmly to increasing public investment in the region.

As I address the Council today, the Darfur peace process is at a critical juncture. It is perhaps fortunate that, at precisely the same time as the security situation in Darfur has deteriorated, prospects for a negotiated settlement appear to have slightly improved. Civil society is now more involved in peace talks than ever, the Government of the Sudan is demonstrating renewed commitment to the negotiations in Doha, and the leaders of most armed opposition movements are either participating in or are expressing an interest in participating in those talks. A comprehensive agreement, combined with improvements in the security situation, is vitally important if UNAMID is to implement its core mandates of protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian assistance. But to be fully effective, UNAMID could also benefit from more support in the form of utility helicopters, a transport company, an aerial surveillance unit, and the lifting of restrictions that prevent the Mission from carrying out its mandate effectively and responding swiftly to emergencies.

As I hope I have been able to convey in my briefing, progress in achieving the UNAMID benchmarks has been varied. I should like to highlight that significant progress in this regard is contingent not only on the full deployment and capacities of the Mission, but also on the willingness of all parties in Darfur to facilitate and contribute to UNAMID mandate implementation and to effectively work towards lasting peace and stabilization.

In this vein, I should like to conclude my remarks by calling on the Council to continue to support dedicated and focused efforts to address the root causes of the Darfur conflict in a holistic manner through the activities of UNAMID and of my colleague Djibril Bassolé and in collaboration with the AU High-level

Implementation Panel. I also wish to request the Council to renew its appeal to the Justice and Equality Movement to rejoin and to SLA-Abdul Wahid to urgently engage in the Doha peace talks in the interests of peace in Darfur, without preconditions, in order to conclude and finalize a peace agreement before the end of the current year. We suspect that, if this is not achieved, the attention of the international community will likely shift to the issue of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the referendum between Northern and Southern Sudan.

Finally, I urge the Council to lend its weight and appeal to all parties to demonstrate restraint and to refrain from actions that are likely to further complicate an already complicated security situation and the search for durable peace in Darfur.

The President: I thank Mr. Gambari for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.